

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph before line 1 at page 30 as follows:

The oxide fine particles may be hydrophobic oxide fine particles having a $R^1_3SiO_{1/2}$ unit on a surface thereof, in which the R^1 is an identical or a different monovalent carbon hydrogen group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The oxide fine particles for use in the present invention preferably contain at least one metal element (a dopant compound) mentioned below as constitutional elements in addition to the silicon element (a silicon compound). As the dopant compound, compounds and oxides of at least one element belonging to Groups II, III, and IV and the third or higher period of the Periodic Table of ~~[[.]] Element~~ Elements are more preferred. Examples of such metal elements are Mg, Ca, Ba, Al, Ti, V, Sr, Zr, Sn, ~~[[Si,]]~~ Zn, Ga, Ge, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and the like. Among them, Ti and Zn are particularly preferred. Thus, the oxide fine particles preferably contain the metal element, Si element, and O element.